

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE 3/19/2013 MEETING

The Meeting convened at 1:00pm at the Gashes Creek Road Recreation Division Office.

Those attending: Mary Albert, Jan Banks, Ed Brown, Debra Collington, Ron Kennedy, Michael Lathrop, Richard Leatherman, Allan Perkal, Michael Reich, Gayle Sovinee, Chris Tyler, Ken Vasilik

Guests: Alyce Knafllich, Anthony Coggiola

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Motion made, seconded and passed that the 2/26/13 meeting minutes be accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Kennedy reported the balance of our budget to be \$976.00

Old Business

Memorial Day: Ken chair of the planning subcommittee reported that Michael Lathrop has volunteer to oversee the planning for the color guard. Ken is awaiting an update from the Downtown Association by the end of this week on the status of funding for a canopy. This information is needed to determine whether they will be scheduling an symphony and ceremony start time. Michael Reich indicated that he will contact Bill Getty of this association for this information. Ken plans to contact the Mayor and Mr. Gant to ask their interest to be speakers and Larry Blunt to be the MC. Jan has made some initial contact with a business that gave her a price range of up to \$500.00 to make a 36 inch wreath with stand. Gayle offered to store the wreath at her property for future Memorial Day use. Ken reported that it would cost \$71.00 plus tax to make 200.00 programs. Motion made, seconded and passed to approve payment of up to \$571.00 for a wreath with stand and for the cost of programs. Richard provided Ken with the banner that displays all Armed Service branches.

Veteran Forum: Gayle reported that the subcommittee plans to meet at Debra's home on March 27@10:00 AM. Ed Brown, Gayle Sovinee, Allan Perkal and Debra Collington expressed interest with being on the subcommittee. Some of the tasks of the subcommittee would be to locate and secure a venue, target October, find adequate funding to support the event, advertising to veterans and coordinating volunteer service providers for the forum to represent employment, transportation, VA claims, housing, health care, education, OIF/OEF components, family services, guidance to active duty soldiers. The Mayors term ends in December. Michael Reich indicated plans to email

the Mayors to ask for guidance on planning for the committees future and subsequent goals.

New Business

Nominations of new officers: Nomination were made and accepted by vote as follows:

Chairman: Ron Kennedy

Vice Chair: Richard Leatherman

Secretary: Ed Brown

Financial Secretary: Ken Vasilik

Election of new officers will occur at our next meeting in April.

Anthony Coggiola of Asheville Urban Farms provided the members with information about his Plant to Plate Produce through hydroponically grown plants. He offered on the job AB Tech practicum placement opportunities and desires to help veterans learn how to do this. The committee made initial plans to schedule a group visit of Urban Farms. Richard offered to facilitate planning a date and time.

By Laws: Gayle asked that the committee review and discuss at our next meeting whether we want to make any modifications or changes. Richard offered to email to all the members our current By Laws for their review.

Announcement, Events, and Closing Comments

The VVA Chapter 124 will be hosting on June 14 a Flag Day event at the Harley Davidson Dealer in Swannanoa

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2013 at 1:00pm at the Recreation Division Office on Gashes Creek Rd.